

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 21, 2005, claims 1, 4, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 5-9, 12, 31, 32, 34, 35, and 38 are allowed.

For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention set forth in claims 1, 4, 10, 11, and 13 includes features which are not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Marshall. The Examiner contends that Marshall has a connector housing having a one-piece portion 10,36 including at least the portion of the bore receiving the contact member and the end of the endform carrying the open end of the endform. The Examiner also contends that Marshall teaches an electrically conductive connector housing 10, 6, and 36. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner continues to misstate the specific teachings of Marshall.

The element 6 in Marshall is a ferrule which is swaged or brazed to the tubular member or endforms 2 and 4 and thereby forms a unitary part of the endforms. Thus, to the extent that the split collar 36 and the male coupling element 10 form a housing as contended by the Examiner, the collar 36 and coupling element 10 are clearly separate from the ferrule fixedly mounted on each of the endforms.

Further, the contact member or washer W in Marshall does not have a first portion mounted in the bore of the connector housing in direct contact with the housing as set forth by the Applicants in claim 1. Marshall specifically teaches away from direct contact of the contact member or washer W with any component which may be considered to form a housing which receives the open end of the endform. In column 3, lines 14-18, Marshall states: "The washer W, however, contacts the flanges 8 at the ends of both tubes 2 and 4 and remains in contact with them as the tubes 2 and 4 expand and contract so that the tubes 2 and 4 are electrically connected to the washer W at all times."

Thus, Marshall teaches direct contact of the washer W or contact member between the ends of the tubes or endforms 2,4 via the ferrules 6 which are fixedly attached to and form an unitary part of each endform or tubular member 2 and 4.

Marshall further specifically teaches away from direct contact between the washer W and the split collar 36 which the Examiner contends forms a part of the housing in column 3, lines 10-14 wherein Marshall states: "The split collar 36 cannot be relied upon to provide good electrical contact since the flanges 8 on the ferrules 6 can move away from the flanges 38 on

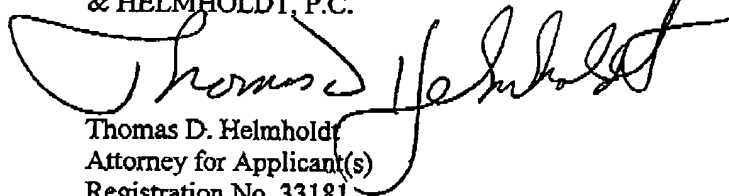
the collar 36 when the tubes 2 and 4 expand or flex relative to each other.”

Thus, Marshall is devoid of any teaching of mounting a contact member in the bore of a connector housing in which a first portion of the contact member is disposed in direct contact with the connector housing. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants’ invention as set forth in claims 1, 4, 10, 11, and 13 patentably defines over Marshall as is not anticipated thereby.

In summary, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants’ invention as set forth in claims 1, 4, 10, 11, and 13, is in condition for allowance along with previously allowed claims 5-9, 12, 31, 32, 34, 35, and 38. A Notice of Allowance is submitted to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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